

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.     A storage library comprising:  
2                   a frame;  
3                   a plurality of cells supported within the frame for holding media  
4 elements; and  
5                   a robot assembly operable for moving toward the cells and  
6 manipulating media elements held by the cells, the robot assembly being containable  
7 within a module which is removably mountable to the frame in order to provide  
8 modular replacement and removal of the robot assembly into and out of the frame.

1                   2.     The library of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the robot assembly is contained within the module as the module is  
3 mounted to the frame, the robot assembly being operable to move out from a  
4 contained position within the module in order to move toward the cells and  
5 manipulate media elements held by the cells while the module is mounted to the  
6 frame.

1                   3.     The library of claim 2 wherein:  
2                   the module is removably dismounted out of the frame while the robot  
3 assembly is contained within the module to provide the modular removal of the  
4 robot assembly from the frame.

1                   4.     The library of claim 3 wherein:  
2                   the module is removably mounted into the frame while a new robot  
3 assembly is contained within the module to provide the modular replacement of the  
4 robot assembly into the frame.

1                   5.     The library of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the module is removably mountable to a front side of the frame.

1                   6.     The library of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the module is removably mountable to a back side of the frame.

1                   7. The library of claim 1 wherein:  
2                   the module is removably mountable to the frame independent of the  
3 support provided by the frame to the cells.

1                   8. The library of claim 1 further comprising:  
2                   a drive supported in the frame for receiving a media element;  
3                   wherein the robot assembly is operable to load a media element held  
4 by a cell into the drive.

1                   9. The library of claim 1 further comprising:  
2                   a device having at least one of a power supply and a controller, the  
3 device having a plug-connector;  
4                   wherein the module has a corresponding plug-connector, wherein the  
5 plug connectors connect with one another to connect the module to the device when  
6 the module is mounted to the frame.

1                   10. A robotics module for a storage library having a plurality of  
2 cells supported within a frame for holding media elements, the robotics module  
3 comprising:  
4                   a housing which is removably mountable to the frame; and  
5                   a robot assembly being containable within the housing, the robot  
6 assembly being operable to move out from a contained position within the housing  
7 in order to move toward the cells and manipulate media elements held by the cells  
8 while the housing is mounted to the frame.

1                   11. The robotics module of claim 10 wherein:  
2                   the housing is removably dismounted out of the frame while the robot  
3 assembly is contained in the housing in order to provide modular removal of the  
4 robot assembly from the frame.

1                   12. The robotics module of claim 11 wherein:

2                   the housing is removably mounted into the frame while a new robot  
3 assembly is contained within the module to provide the modular replacement of the  
4 robot assembly into the frame.

1                   13. The robotics module of claim 10 wherein:  
2 the housing is removably mountable to a front side of the frame.

1                   14. The robotics module of claim 10 wherein:  
2 the housing is removably mountable to a back side of the frame.

1                   15. The robotics module of claim 10 wherein:  
2 the housing is removably mountable to the frame independent of the  
3 support provided by the frame to the cells.

1                   16. The robotics module of claim 10 wherein the storage library  
2 further includes a drive supported in the frame for receiving a media element,  
3 wherein:  
4 the robot assembly is operable to load a media element held by a cell  
5 into the drive while the housing is mounted to the frame.

1                   17. A method for a storage library having a plurality of cells  
2 supported within a frame for holding media elements, the method comprising:  
3 providing a robotics module having a robot assembly contained in a  
4 housing, the robot assembly being operable to move out from a contained position  
5 within the housing in order to move toward the cells and manipulate media elements  
6 held by the cells while the housing is mounted to the frame; and  
7 mounting the housing to the frame of the storage library.

1                   18. The method of claim 17 further comprising:  
2 dismounting the housing out of the frame while the robot assembly  
3 is contained in the housing in order to provide modular removal of the robot  
4 assembly from the frame.

1                    19.     The method of claim 18 further comprising:  
2                    providing a new robot assembly in the housing; and  
3                    mounting the housing into the frame while the new robot assembly  
4 is contained in the housing to provide the modular replacement of the robot  
5 assembly.

1                    20.     The method of claim 19 further comprising:  
2                    dismounting the housing out of the frame while the new robot  
3 assembly is contained in the housing in order to provide modular removal of the  
4 new robot assembly from the frame.

1                    21.     The method of claim 18 further comprising:  
2                    providing a new robotics module having a new robot assembly  
3 contained in a new housing, the new robot assembly being operable to move out  
4 from a contained position within the new housing in order to move toward the cells  
5 and manipulate media elements held by the cells while the new housing is mounted  
6 to the frame; and  
7                    mounting the new housing into the frame while the new robot  
8 assembly is contained in the new housing to provide the modular replacement of the  
9 robot assembly.